

Abstract of the Disclosure

A personal computer (PC) system and methods for proving dates of digital data files, which are accessed, created, modified, received, or transmitted by the PC includes a trusted time source in a tamperproof environment, a first subsystem for saving the file at a moment in time, a second
5 subsystem for retrieving from the trusted time source a date and a time corresponding to the moment in time, a third subsystem for appending the date and the time retrieved from the trusted time source to the saved file, a fourth subsystem for signing the saved file with the date and the time retrieved from the trusted time source appended thereto, a fifth subsystem means for hashing the signed file to produce a digest, a sixth subsystem for signing the digest with a key to produce a
10 certificate, a seventh subsystem for appending the certificate to the saved file, and an eighth subsystem for saving the file with the certificate appended thereto. The trusted time source is a real time clock, which is not resettable, is independent of any system clock of the PC, and is installed locally relative to the PC.